on climate change. India also acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in August, 2002 which further affirms India's commitment to strengthening global efforts to combat climate change. India also hosted the Eighth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from October 23 to November 1, 2002 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi which is again a reiteration of its commitment to the cause of climate change. The Delhi Ministerial Declaration, an outcome of the Conference, urges Parties that have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol to do so in a timely manner. It also resolves that Annex I Parties should further implement their commitments under the Convention, including, for Annex- II Parties, those relating to the provision of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, and demonstrate that they are taking the lead in modifying longer-term trends in anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with the ultimate objective of the Convention, through the adoption of national policies and corresponding measures for the mitigation of climate change.

US report on food processing machinery in India

3175. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study conducted by the US Industry Market Research Group Freedonia has pointed out that India would be the fastest growing national market worldwide for food processing machinery with domestic demand for food and beverage products growing by leaps and bounds;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the study report; and

(c) to what extent India's food processing machinery would be encouraged in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) As per the information obtained from the Internet, Freedonia Market Research Group of USA have brought out a report in which it has been stated that India will register strong market increases—benefiting from above average growth in food output and capital spending—although food processing

machinery demand will continue to lag much of the rest of the world in per-capita terms. The complete report has not been obtained by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have initiated steps to boost the growth of food processing sector through its various policy initiatives and number of schemes under the Tenth Five Year Plan. As per the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) Report, this sector is slated for growth at 10.1% if GDP growth is at 8%. These developments taken togetherwith Plan Scheme interventions of the Ministry for subsidizing the cost of plant and machinery in food processing industries, *inter-alia* also encourage the sector.

Export of processed foods

3176. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether increased food safety norms would help in improving the exports of Rs. 25,00,000 million agro products and processed food products;

(b) if so, whether India's share in global agro-products market is $ 6 billion, considered to be too small and negligible, and with increased focus on food safety norms, exports can rise further; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the processed food exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) National Codex Committee of the Government of India is engaged, on a continuous basis, in recommending Food Safety norms for all food products including agro and processed food products so that they are accepted for exports resulting in increased exports.

(c) Steps to help the agri-products and the processed foods export sector include *inter-alia* financial assistance to exporters by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)